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Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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NATIONAL HIGHWAY  
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADM

June 5th, 2000

Re: Elizabeth Fisher's Petition for an amendment to SEC. 571.209 Standard No. 209, Seat Belt Assemblies.

Dear Administrator:

I am writing in support of Elizabeth Fisher's petition to amend 49CFR571.209.

Here is a letter I emailed Elizabeth Fisher and have given my permission for Elizabeth to forward to you. Bottom line: vehicle manufacturers **MUST** be required to provide a means for any person who fits in one of their vehicles to be able to fasten their seat belt.

Hi Elizabeth!

I just received a NAAFA email regarding your petition for seat belts and I wholeheartedly support it! I wasn't aware of this at all. I have been "suffering in silence" and not wearing seat belts (not in my newer van, nor in any other car I ride in that the seat belts don't fit-which is many models). I just had to thank you for providing the Seat Belt Extender Info on line. What a wealth of information you provided, both in story, owners of extenders, and especially the addresses/phone numbers, etc., of all the car companies. I have emailed all my plus-sized family/friends this webpage.

I just bought a 1995 Dodge Grand Caravan SE on 12/30/99 due to the theft of my 1990 Dodge Grand Caravan LE on 11/5/99: which by-the-way, the seats themselves moved back and down (power), and the seats & seatbelts fit fine, although I would have appreciated a little more give, but I was still able to buckle up!

Anyway, I was surprised that this newer van's seat belts **DON'T FIT** me at all and the seats **DON'T** move (non-power/non LE). I don't drive all that much, but I find driving very uncomfortable so I haven't worn the seatbelts. This makes me nervous of ever being in an accident as I could be injured, and also of getting a ticket because in Minnesota (and like most states) we have a seat belt law. I have never heard of seat belt extenders so I am hoping when I call the Dodge dealership where I purchased it, they can provide a pair for me (for myself and any plus-size passengers) and hopefully for free like the comments of others who were able to get them, but I'll still get them no matter what the cost!

I am extremely surprised to see that not all of the car manufacturer's make/provide extenders and there is no law that makes them have to do so, yet, people are required to wear them or else they'll get a ticket if stopped. Those who own cars of companies who don't make/provide extenders, are endangering their lives by **NOT** being able to buckle up. That is so sad. They (the car manufacturer's) ought to be sued by anyone injured in an accident in their vehicle, because money always seems to talk, bring about action and public awareness. Ideally, if no one bought their cars, they'd soon wake up and do the public right, but there are enough people who are of average size who'd still buy their cars.

Keep spreading the word and God bless you. Sincerely indebted for your information,  
Marjie Gunderson

*Marjie Gunderson*

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